

NRCS Alabama

Current Developments



January 2006

From The State Conservationist - Gary Kobylski

Happy New Year! There is something invigorating about beginning a new year—new experiences, opportunities, acquaintances, and, no doubt, a few new challenges.

We accomplished a great deal in 2005, and you have a right to take pride in those activities. Thanks for your dedication in getting the job done. Your efforts have made a difference to the landowners of Alabama.

I look forward to the experiences that 2006 will bring, and I hope you do too. As we begin

2006, let's do it with an open mind to learn new skills and an outstretched hand to those who need our services. Helping farmers make wise land use decisions—and reaping the environmental benefits for our Nation—is the mark of our success. I value and appreciate all that you have done to serve Alabama's farmers and this agency.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary".

Tuskegee Hosts PAWC Conference

The 63rd Professional Agricultural Workers Conference (PAWC) met in December at Tuskegee University. The PAWC serves as a forum where participants review and discuss relevant topics on improving the quality of rural life for people in the South and the nation in general. This year's theme was: "Strategies to Influence the 2007 Farm Bill and Rural Policies: Impact on Diverse Cultures, Rural Communities and Underserved Farmers." Featured speaker was Pearlle Reed, a retired USDA administrator, who once served as the NRCS Chief and assistant to the Secretary of Agriculture.

The PAWC is hosted by Tuskegee University and supported by the Farm Foundation, USDA agencies, the Southern Rural Development Center, 1890 Land-grant Institutions, and Tuskegee University.

Professional agricultural workers have met at Tuskegee University annually since 1942 to share

their views on agricultural related issues and offer solutions to the special challenges that face the nation's rural and farm communities.



NRCS employees Pam Mason (l) and Gwen Lewis (r) were among the participants at the 63rd PAWC, pictured with Pearlle Reed, former NRCS Chief.

Mac Nelson Receives Jerry L. Johnson Award

By Fay Garner, Public Affairs Assistant, Auburn, AL

Marshall (Mac) Nelson, Design Engineer in the State Office, was chosen to receive the first Jerry L. Johnson Award. He was presented with a framed, hand-carved pinecone and \$1,000 at the annual meeting of the Alabama Association of Conservation Districts in November.

The annual award will be given to an NRCS employee, who like Jerry, exhibits excellence in public service through one's family, employment, profession, and community. Mac's initiative, vision, unselfishness, teamwork, enthusiasm, discipline, confidence, and faithfulness clearly shows these characteristics.

Sue Daniel, Secretary of the NRCS State Office engineering section, nominated Mac for the award, with concurrence from the engineering team, NRCS resource engineers, retired engineers, and other retired NRCS employees. Sue said when she read the award information, she immediately thought Mac should receive the award because she had seen him exemplify all the characteristics listed in the criteria. She knew how much it would mean to him and his career to receive such prestigious recognition, but she knew that more importantly, it would be a special honor for him because it represents Jerry, a man that Mac looked up to as a friend, brother, and mentor.

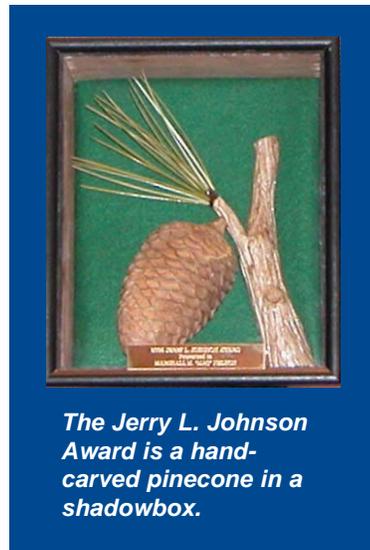
"This award is very special to me because of my close friendship with Jerry," Mac said. "He was an encourager and an inspiration to me. I've never known anyone that had a more positive outlook on life than Jerry. Even in the worst circumstances he could usually find something good.

Throughout his battle with cancer, Jerry was an encouragement to me and all who knew him. He truly was a 'glass is half-full' kind of guy. The carving is very appropriate for this award since he was a forester, and because his nickname was 'Loblolly,' his 'handle' from the days when CB radios were popular."

Mac became familiar with conservation at a young age. His father, John M. Nelson, was a Soil Conservation Tech in Marshall County with SCS, and his uncle O.C. Medlock, was Alabama's first State Conservationist. He worked for SCS part-time as a Student Trainee while attending Auburn University. After graduating with a BS degree in agricultural engineering, he began full-time with SCS in 1970.

The Jerry L. Johnson Award was established in 2005 and is funded by the Bradley/Murphy Forestry and Natural Resources Extension Trust. It is scheduled to be given annually if there is a deserving NRCS employee who meets the criteria. Nomination information is available on the Alabama NRCS website. Nominations are due before September 15 of the award year.

The award selection committee is comprised of representatives from NRCS, the Alabama Association of Conservation Districts, the State Soil and Water Conservation Committee, and the Bradley/Murphy Forestry and Natural Resources Extension Trust.



The Jerry L. Johnson Award is a hand-carved pinecone in a shadowbox.



Mac Nelson (c), Design Engineer in the State Office, is the recipient of the 2005 Jerry L. Johnson award. Sue Daniel (l), Engineering Secretary, nominated him, and Perry Oakes, NRCS State Conservation Engineer.

Alabama Hosts 5th Forage Conference

By Julie Best, Public Affairs Specialist, Auburn, AL

About 250 farmers and agricultural specialists from Alabama and surrounding states had the opportunity to hear national leaders in livestock production at the 2005 Alabama Forage Conference. The conference was held at the Pike County Cattlemen's Association building in Troy, Alabama. Since 1997, with the formation of the Alabama Forage and Grassland Coalition, there have been four other forage conferences. This was the first conference to be held in the southern part of Alabama.

Dr. Don Ball, a forage agronomist with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, said the workshop was one of the nation's best one-day forage conferences held this year.

"At this conference, livestock producers heard from experts who provided the latest information in research and applied management on forage and livestock production," said Eddie Jolley, Alabama NRCS Conservation Agronomist. "The program also featured presentations from practicing cattle producers who shared their experiences with the audience."

Speakers for the conference included key-note speaker Kit Pharo from Colorado, Dr. Garry Lacefield from the University of Kentucky, Dr. Mike McCormick



Charles Holmes (l), Chairman of the AFGC; Kimberli R. Stein (c), National Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative Coordinator; and Eddie Jolley, Alabama NRCS Conservation Agronomist.

from Louisiana State University, as well as successful livestock producers, consultants, and extension representatives.

The conference featured vendor exhibits related to forage and livestock production. This was the first year vendors were at the conference. It provided a great opportunity for producers to gain product information directly from the company representatives.

The Alabama Forage and Grassland Coalition sponsored the conference. The Coalition was organized to support improved forage and livestock management. The Coalition is supported by the Alabama Cattlemen's Association, Alabama Farmers Federation, Alabama Poultry and Egg Association, and the Alabama Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.



The Forage Conference was very well attended. About 250 farmers and agricultural specialists attended the one-day conference.

Poarch Indians Makes Indian Heritage Month Memorable

By Fay Garner, Public Affairs Assistant, Auburn, AL

The Alabama NRCS Civil Rights Advisory Committee (CRAC) was invited to hold their quarterly meeting in November at the Poarch Creek Indian Reservation in Atmore, Alabama, to help celebrate American Indian Heritage Month. The Tribe's senior citizens group hosted the meeting at the SAIL Center.

The meeting was opened with remarks from outgoing Chair Terry Williamson who passed the leadership role to Joyce Nicholas. The committee elected Johnny Trayvick as Vice-Chair and Sue Daniel as Recorder for FY 2006.

Special guests from the Poarch Creek Indian Tribe joined the meeting. Gayle Johnson, Community Relations Reporter, took photos for a story in their Tribal newspaper. Tribal Elder Billy Smith also attended and addressed the group.

After the meeting, the group moved to the dining area where the senior citizens group had prepared a traditional meal for the CRAC, guests, and seniors.

To show appreciation for the hospitality of the tribe, David Elliott, American Indian/Alaska Native Special Emphasis Program Manager, presented a framed American Indian Heritage Month poster to Chairman Fred L. McGhee, who was unable to attend. His special assistant Kelli Ramer accepted the gift on his behalf. Robert Thrower, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, gave an Indian Culture presentation. He brought some authentic Indian artifacts to show the group and demonstrated various weapons used by the



Robert Thrower in authentic Indian dress.



David Elliott presented a framed Native American Heritage Month poster to Chairman Fred L. McGhee, who was unable to attend. His Special Assistant Kelli Ramer (r), accepted the gift on his behalf.

Indians to hunt game. He also donned authentic garb to show the group how typical Indians dressed. He said that beaded items and buckskins were usually worn only as ceremonial dress.

At the end of the meeting, all attending were given an American Indian Heritage Month poster. The CRAC members had the opportunity to buy beaded jewelry hand-made by one of the Tribal members.

The Poarch Creek Indians made the CRAC meeting a memorable event, and made the celebration of the American Indian Heritage Month more meaningful.

The next meeting of the CRAC committee will be January 19 in Clanton, Alabama. NRCS employees who have concerns or items you wish to discuss with the committee, please fill out a Concern/Suggestion form on the Alabama NRCS website and submit it to a committee member before the next meeting.

ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/AL/info/CRACconcern-sugg_form.pdf

State Office Weighs In Heavy for the Food Bank

By Teresa Paglione, Hospitality Committee Chair, Auburn, AL

Continuing in the Christmas spirit of giving, the State Office's Hospitality Committee initiated another food drive as part of the annual State Office Christmas dinner. Hoping to surpass the previous "Hurricane Katrina-Rita" donation of 137 pounds, we asked that each section in the State Office and the East Team be responsible for collecting a variety of food items. Each week beginning December 6, we targeted specific foods for each section--although all donations were accepted. Administration and Management collected canned meats; Ecological Sciences and MLRA focused on canned fruits and vegetables; and Engineering was responsible for dry goods. The Christmas dinner invitations to SCS/NRCS retirees asked them to also bring food items.

All of the items were placed in large boxes that Sue Daniel had decorated in Christmas wrapping paper. As each box was filled, it was placed under the lighted tree in the front office.

On December 20, Joe Norris and I took the gift-wrapped boxes to the East Alabama Food Bank. Altogether, NRCS employees and retirees donations

weighed in at 177 pounds. By the Food Bank's estimates (20 lbs per family), our donation would just about feed a family for nine weeks – or nine families for one week!

The Food Bank of East Alabama is the central food collection facility in East Central Alabama. The Food Bank provides a safe, convenient, and reliable way to channel food to hungry people by distributing donated and purchased food to soup kitchens, senior programs, shelters, emergency food pantries, and community centers.

The Hospitality Committee and the East Alabama Food Bank thanks *and* congratulates the employees of the State Office and the SCS/NRCS retirees for their generous contributions!

FY 2005 Hospitality Committee: Teresa Paglione (Chair), Sue Daniel, Joe Norris, Eddie Jolley, and Scott Anderson.



Technical Service Provider Training

Expanding conservation technical assistance on private land is the concept of the Technical Service Provider program. The Alabama Crop Management Association, Auburn University, the Alabama Soil and Water Conservation Society, and NRCS partnered to provide training to technical service providers.

NRCS employees Ben Moore (l) and Steve Musser (r) explain how a conservation plan folder is developed for technical service providers Alan Robinett, TSP from Dale County; and Bill Hovey, TSP from Barbour County.

RC&D NEWS

The Appalachian Coal Country Watershed Team: Restoring Health to the Watersheds and Hope to the Communities of Appalachia

by Paul Kennedy, Cawaco RC&D Coordinator, Birmingham, AL

East of the Mississippi River are the dozen states that make up Appalachian coal country, stretching from Pennsylvania to Alabama. From here, America obtained much of the fuel that spun the machines of progress that propelled the nation through major industrialization and two world wars.

Lying above the coal mines are vibrant forests, but beneath the beauty lies the insidious effects of decades of pre-regulatory mining activity. These include, acid mine drainage (AMD)—the metals-laden water, often acidic, that seeps from abandoned coal mines—and other forms of pollution, as well as the scarring of the land. All of these impact local communities that lack the resources to confront these challenges.

Aware of this reality, and recognizing the potential for a joint venture, the federal Office of Surface Mining (OSM) partnered with AmeriCorps* VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) in 2001 to recruit and place full-time volunteers in watershed organizations throughout the eastern coal region. The

Appalachian Coal Country Watershed Team (ACCWT), mostly college graduates with interests in the environment, commit to assisting in the region for up to two years.

The work they do is as varied as it is impressive, and includes monitoring AMD treatment systems, collecting and analyzing water samples, enhancing wildlife habitat, conducting experiments, writing reports and press releases, preparing grant proposals, producing educational materials and school curricula, planning festivals and fundraisers, and raising public awareness about environmental issues.

The OSM/VISTA Volunteers receive only a modest stipend and a college tuition grant in exchange for their service. For most, however, that doesn't compare to the satisfaction of building capacity in their watershed groups and bringing new hope to the communities in which they work.

Today there are thirty OSM/VISTA Volunteers serving in Alabama, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia, supplying fresh energy, inspiration, and leadership to their watershed organizations. These volunteers are often the only staff available to work full-time for watershed interests and are powerful advocates for environmental issues and community redevelopment in their regions, bringing renewed optimism and strength to coal country. The

results of their work are profound and reverberate deeply throughout Appalachia.

Note from Paul Kennedy: NRCS and the Cawaco RC&D Council made this happen for Alabama. There are three OSM/VISTA workers in Alabama. In addition to Hilary Aten, who works out of the Cawaco RC&D Council office, Alabama Rivers Alliance/Hurricane Creek and Cahaba River Society each host one of the workers. When funds are low, there are creative ways to achieve conservation goals.

[Article and photo reprinted by permission of OrionOnline - The Orion Society's mission is to inform, inspire, and engage individuals and grassroots organizations in becoming a significant cultural force for healing nature and community.]



ACCWT team photo, July 2005. Note: Among the group are Hilary Aten (back row, second from left) and Paul Kennedy (back row, fourth from left).

Trash and Recycle Show for Schools

by Charlie Meek, Northwest RC&D Coordinator,
Tuscumbia, AL

The Northwest Alabama RC&D Council recently partnered with accomplished magician, kid comedian, and Rockin' Eco Hero--**Steve Trash**. Steve is a resident of Franklin County, Alabama, and takes his traveling show all over the United States and several foreign countries. Steve has entertained and educated over 10 million people about recycling and the environment during his career.

Most of Steve's performances are based around community events such as water festivals, state and county fairs, or professional conferences in large cities.

While Steve has performed in three of the five counties that make up the Northwest AL RC&D Council Area, students in Marion and Winston Counties had not had the opportunity to experience this dynamic show.

After a brief planning meeting between RC&D staff and Steve Trash, a proposal was developed requesting \$4,000 to secure Steve Trash for eight performances in the Marion and Winston County School systems. The proposal was submitted to the Alabama RC&D Association requesting Auburn Education Funds, and the proposal was approved.

The objective of the Trash and Recycle Show is to teach children:

- why recycling is a good idea
- to view trash as a natural resource
- what things are recyclable
- how to reduce, reuse, and recycle
- that recycling can be fun



Steve with some rockin' kids at Meek Elementary in Winston County, Alabama.

Due to a spirit of team work and cooperation by project partners, the Trash and Recycle Shows were a great success with over 2,200 kids in Winston and Marion county schools attending in November 2005. The reactions by the students and teachers sharing lots of smiles, laughter, and cheers were evidence that the Trash and Recycle Shows were very well received by students and faculty. The performances communicate a very important message in a fun way!

Special thanks to Michael Fowlkes, RC&D Program Assistant, for developing the grant proposal and assisting Steve Trash with setting up and loading out for several shows. Also special thanks to Alabama Cooperative Extension Agents Bobby Wallace (Marion County) and Michael Henshaw (Winston County) for their valuable assistance with making contacts with school officials and scheduling dates for Steve Trash!



Christie Steadman, Northwest RC&D Staff, presents a check to Steve Trash to schedule him for eight performances in Marion and Winston Counties.

Helping Hands Project Training Helps the Needy

by Heidi Janes, Coosa Valley RC&D Coordinator,
Oxford, AL

About 80 contractors, engineers, septic tank installers, and others gathered for continuing education training in Centre, Alabama, and helped their fellow man at the same time! As part of Helping Hands 2005, they first had classroom training at the Cherokee County Health Department. Then they applied what they learned by installing new septic systems for two needy families in Cherokee County. This year, the Coosa Valley RC&D Council and Alabama Clean Water Coalition provided grant funds to finance the project.

"We provided a special design for poor soil locations for two houses that didn't have working septic systems," said Roger Hall, Cherokee County Engineer. "We put in a treatment system in addition to the typical septic tank and disposal field, and a peat moss system to treat the effluent after it comes out of the septic tanks. We put in a drip irrigation system in



Learning new techniques and helping those in need was the goal of the Helping Hands 2005 project.

the pasture so there would be some beneficial reuse of the water. We had installers, electricians, pump people, vendors, machine operators, all kinds of folks out here,” said Hall. “It was a joint effort where everyone contributed what they had, and in the process, trained each other. It was a good way to demonstrate an atypical system that was made and engineered for very difficult soil conditions. The clay soil doesn’t dissipate the water very well. With the water from the drip system, we hope to grow grass and disperse the waste water in a positive way.”

According Wade Bobo of the Health Department, “A lot of these guys had never seen a drip system go in before. I think they got their money’s worth by receiving the training and then installing a system.”

Leon Fife with Fife Construction of Centre, said, “It was an outstanding project. We just helped people that needed help. It was good for everybody involved.”

Woody Biomass Proposal Submitted

The timber damaged by recent hurricanes has added tons of fuel to the forest floor. These forest products could be used as woody biomass fuel.

The Cawaco RC&D Council is one of a host of partners in a grant proposal submitted to the U.S. Forest Service to receive funds through Woody Biomass Grants.

As part of the Healthy Forest Restoration Initiative, the Energy Policy Act of 2005, and the Appropriation Act of 2006, at least \$4 million are

available for grants that increase the use of woody biomass from or near National Forest System lands.

The National Forests in Alabama (AFAL)—Bankhead, Talladega, Tuskegee, and Conecuh—currently have significant forest health issues related to insect infestation, storm damage, over-stocked conditions, decline of key ecosystem components, and build-up of fuels. The Alabama grant proposal is twofold: 1) to find better ways to harvest these fuels, and 2) to develop a market for small diameter stems. The intent is to decrease management costs, improve air quality from diminished particulates related to fire, restore natural ecosystems to an open park-like forest condition, re-establish economic and social relevance between the NFAL and local communities, and increase the value of and demand for wood based biomass on the open market.

The Woody Biomass Grants program is intended to help improve forest restoration activities by using and creating markets for small-diameter material and low-valued trees removed from hazardous fuel reduction activities. These funds are targeted to help communities, entrepreneurs, and others turn residues from hazardous fuel reduction projects into marketable forest products and/or energy products.

According to Paul Kennedy, “The Alabama proposal has the potential to use 800,000 tons (40,000 acres) of biomass per year with little to no modifications just for the pulverized coal-fired plants operated by Alabama Power. As this project moves forward, significant opportunities exist for improved woodland management, additional forest related jobs, and cleaner air.”



Hurricane damaged timber added tons of fuel to the forest floor that can be used as woody biomass fuel.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA’s TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer

Stream Restoration in Etowah County

by Ken Howell, District Conservationist, Gadsden, AL

The Etowah County Soil and Water Conservation District and NRCS partnered with several groups on two stream restoration projects in recent months. One involved a small stream through North Gadsden Park in the city of Gadsden. A 300 acre watershed drained into the stream. Originally, the stream was a straight run, about 20 feet wide. When it rained, water pooled on both sides of the stream instead of draining into the stream. The water was very shallow, and there was no wildlife.

With an Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) 319 grant, a 375 foot segment of the stream was restored. The stream was restored to a type E stream with curves and pools. The segment of the stream now measures about 450 feet and runoff now drains into the stream as it should.

The park was mostly pine and hardwood trees. Additional hardwood trees, native grasses, and shrubs will be planted to restore the park to its natural condition.

A second stream restoration project took place on the Waldrop Farm. Many years ago, the small stream that runs through the Waldrop property had been channelized. Over time, the cattle and nature had caused the stream banks to erode. The ditched stream was unsightly and the quality of the water was jeopardized by the cattle having access the stream. With a 319 grant from ADEM, a stream demonstration site was constructed on the farm. Tim Williams, Resource Engineer, designed the plan that called for a consistent series of riffle/pool reaches that would be attractive to fish and other aquatic species. The original channelized ditch was about 400 feet; the restored stream is about 650 feet. The restoration plan called for the installation of temporary fish shade structures in the deeper pools of the stream. They are constructed of six foot logs that are placed side by side along the outside bank of the deeper pools. The fish shade structures will provide cooler water and protection for the aquatic life.

To control erosion after the construction phase, the restoration plan called for the use of several erosion control products. Erosion control blanket material was installed along the disturbed banks. Coir logs (coconut fiber) were installed at the toe of the stream bank along the outside of curves.

Polyacrylamide (PAM), a synthetic, organic polymer or “glue,” was broadcast over the construction area. The organic components of PAM chemically control erosion by bonding fine soil particles together to increase the particle size. The result is increased water infiltration through the particle spaces, decreased erodibility of the soil particles, and reduced turbidity of the runoff water. There is no indication of any adverse impact on soil, plant, or aquatic systems when anionic PAM is used to control soil erosion.

A second part of this project involved installation of best management practices (BMPs) through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). With EQIP funds, the cattle will be fenced out of the stream and hardwood trees and shrubs will be planted to make the floodplain a wildlife refuge. A stream crossing has been installed; the conservation plans also calls for the installation of water troughs and heavy-use areas.

These newly reconstructed streams are pleasing to the eye and the BMPs installed are conducive to good water quality and wildlife habitat.

Before project stream monitoring was conducted by ADEM. They will provide follow-up monitoring for the next couple of years to determine how much the project has improved water quality.



319 grant funds from ADEM helped restore a stream in a Gadsden park. Not only did the restoration help improve the water quality in the watershed, it also improved the aesthetics of the park.

Conservation Planning for New Employees Training

by Zona Beaty, Resource Conservationist, Auburn, AL

Twenty of Alabama's newest employees participated in three weeks of intensive training in conservation planning this fall. Phase I was held September 19-23, 2005, on the farm of John Dorrill in Pike County. Topics of discussion included the Nine Steps of Conservation Planning, Conservation Planning Tools, Principles and Organization of Soil Survey, Soil Science and Classification, Soil Interpretations, Soil Survey Techniques, Principles of Agronomy, Principles of Wildlife Management, Fishpond Management, Principles of Forest Management, Basic Engineering Principles, Grazing Management Principles, Cultural Resources Compliance Procedures, Economics, Salesmanship, and Program Outreach. The employees participated in both classroom instruction and field exercises. Instructors involved in the three weeks of training include employees on both the ecological sciences and engineering staffs.

Phase II of training was held in Cullman at the Alabama Electric Cooperative Building October 31-November 4, 2005. Topics of instruction included Engineering Practices, Tools and Concepts, Comprehensive Nutrient Management Planning, Principles of Vegetation Establishment, Use of GPS, Pest Management Considerations in Conservation Planning, and Nutrient Management Considerations in Conservation Planning.

The final segment, Phase III, focusing on Conservation Planning, was held in Auburn at the NRCS State Office on December 5-9, 2005. Field trips to the Tuskegee National Forest, Mary Olive Thomas Demonstration Forest, Auburn University Old Crop Rotation, E.V. Smith Extension Experimental Station, ARS Tillage Lab, Auburn University Soils Testing Laboratory,

and local farms was a part of this section of the training.

In the first week, trainees were given an assignment to develop a conservation plan on a farm in the county where each works. During Phase III of the training, each participant gave an oral presentation of their conservation plan.

This type of intensive training presents an overall picture of the complexity of conservation planning and the role of NRCS employees in assisting landusers in developing high quality conservation plans.



Bob Beaty (r), Resource Soil Scientist, talks about soil characteristics during a segment of the Conservation for New Employees training.

Animal Waste Management

by Bill Prince, Environmental Engineer, Oxford, AL

Two of the biggest projects in animal waste management is underway in DeKalb County. One involves the construction of an above-ground steel storage tank that has a capacity of 1.6 million gallons, but the aeration system employed in the tank makes this a more unique application. Air will be forced into the surface layer of the tank to enhance aerobic treatment of the animal waste.

One of the advantages of this type of treatment for swine manure is reduced odor. Use of the recycled water is another advantage. The treated water from the surface of the tank will be recycled and used to remove waste from swine production buildings.

The second job is the largest lagoon relining project that NRCS has undertaken in Alabama. Currently, a 5.3 acre swine lagoon is being prepared to be relined, without removing the hogs and stopping production. To do this, a splitter dike has been pushed across the big lagoon, thus dividing it into two smaller dikes. Presently, liquid wastes are being pumped from one end, and the sludge is being stirred to liquefy it so it can be removed by pumping equipment instead of excavating equipment.

Both projects should be completed in 2006.



The 1.6 million gallon above-ground steel storage tank is the first tank of this type that NRCS has assisted in constructing.



A track hoe is being used to stir the thick sludge to liquefy it so it can be removed by pumping equipment instead of excavating equipment.

Personnel News

Promotions

Amber Johnson, Soil Conservationist, Hamilton, Alabama

Bucky Howe, Soil Conservation Technician, Guntersville, Alabama

Reassignments

Merry Buford, Soil Conservationist, Andalusia, Alabama to Montgomery, Alabama

Barbara Creech, Purchasing Agent, Auburn, Alabama to Contract Specialist, NRCS, Palmer, Alaska

Joyce Nicholas, Soil Conservationist, Marion, Alabama to Mobile, Alabama

Tim Poole, Soil Conservationist, Evergreen, Alabama to District Conservationist, Clanton, Alabama

Phillip Slater, District Conservationist, Fayette, Alabama to Soil Conservationist, Andalusia, Alabama

Glen Sutton, District Conservationist, Clanton, Alabama to District Conservationist, Hot Springs, Arkansas

Angela Warden, Soil Scientist, MLRA Soil Survey Office, Huntsville, Alabama to Soil Scientist, Tuscaloosa Soil Survey Project Office, Tuscaloosa, Alabama

Richard Zellmer, Soil Scientist, MLRA, Auburn, Alabama to Soil Conservationist, Resource Conservation Staff, Auburn, Alabama

Resignation

Grant Gordy, Soil Conservation Technician, Marion, Alabama